Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 MC-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 AID-05 EB-07 INR-07 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 NSCE-00 /068 W

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CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 2339

CORRECTEDCOPYFORTEXT//PARAFOUR//

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SU, PDEV, EFIN, EAID

SUBJECT: SALE OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT TO SUDAN

REF: A) STATE 160093, B) STATE 162412

- 1. AS SUGGESTED REF B, PLAN TO CONVEY DECISION TRANSMITTED IN REF A TO PRESIDENT NIMEIRI ON OCCASION OF PRESENTATION MY CREDENTIALS. I WILL STAY STRICTLY WITHIN MY INSTRUCTIONS BUT, AS SUGGESTED PARA 1, REF B, I WILL TAKE HIGH GROUND AND SEEK MOST POSITIVE SUDANESE CONSTRUCTION ON OUR DECISION IN PRINCIPLE.
- 2. CONCEPT OF "MOMENTUM-SUSTAINING ACTIONS" IS
 AN APPEALING ONE. QUESTION ARISSES, HOWEVER, AS TO
 WHETHER SOME OF THE ACTIONS SUGGESTED ARE WITHIN
 OUR CAPABILITIES OR, EQUALLY IMPORTANTLY, WHETHER
 SUDANESE WILL VIEW THEM AS EARNESTS OF A GENUINE
 ATTEMPT TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS.
 A. RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DAO. THIS IS, OF COURSE,
 ALREADY IN TRAIN. WE BELIEVE THAT SUDANESE HAVE AGREED
 TO ASSIGNMENT OF DAO HERE IN CONTEXT OF WHAT THEY
 HOPE WILL BECOME AN ENHANCED AND ONGOING US-SUDAN MILITARY
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SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP.

- B. INCREASING IMET PROGRAM. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF THIS PROGRAM AND HOPE REQUIRED ADDITIONAL FUNDS CAN QUICKLY BE MADE AVAILABLE. (SEE EMBTEL 2218).
- C. COMMERCIAL ARMS TRANSFERS. APPROVAL OF PENDING MUNITIONS CONTROL CASES WOULD ALSO BE MOST HELPFUL.

COULD WE HAVE, BY TELEGRAM, A RUNDOWN OF PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE CASES UNDER CONSIDERATION BY MC?

D. EXPEDITING AID PROGRAMS. THIS, I THINK, IS FOOL'S GOLD. GIVEN RESTRAINTS IMPOSED BY US LEGISLATION AND AID'S OWN INTERNAL PROCEDURES, I CANNOT SEE DIRT FLYING ON ANY SIGNIFICANT AID PROJECT IN SUDAN BEFORE SUMMER OF 1978 AT EARLIEST. MOREOVER, AID PROGRAM HERE, AS PRESENTLY CONCEIVED, WILL AT MOST FILL IN A FEW NOOKS AND CRANNIES IN A SUDAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ALREADY RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE FROM A HOST OF OTHER FOREIGN DONORS. IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES FOREGOING IS UNDULY PESSIMISTIC, WOULD APPRECIATE MORE SPECIFIC INDICATION OF WHAT "EXPEDITING AID PROGRAMS" MIGHT MEAN IN PRACTICE.

3. A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR THE SUDANESE FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD TO COME WILL BE FINDING THE MONEY TO PAY THEIR CURRENT BILLS UNTIL THE FOREIGN EARNINGS HOPEFULLY TO BE PRODUCED BY PROJECTED INCREASED EXPORTS BEGIN TO COME IN. SUDAN WILL HAVE GROWTH-INDUCED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS FOR MANY YEARS. SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, SUDAN'S WEALTHY ARAB BRETHREN ARE GOING TO HAVE TO SHOULDER THIS SHORT-TERM PROBLEM IF THEY WISH TO PROTECT THEIR LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS. IN THIS PROCESS, HOWEVER, I THINK WE SHOULD BE GIVING THOUGHT TO "MOMENTUM-SUSTAINING ACTIONS" WHICH GIVE TANGIBLE, IF CONFIDENTIAL

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LIMITED, RELIEF TO SUDAN'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. WE SHOULD PERHAPS BE MORE IMAGINATIVE IN FINDING WAYS TO USE PL 480 AS A MEANS OF COVERING PART OF THE COSTS OF SUDAN'S INCREASING IMPORTS. WE MIGHT ALSO LOOK INTO THE PROSPECTS OF USING OUR INFLUENCE WITH BOTH THE SUDANESE AND THE IMF TO MAKE MORE SYSTEMATIC BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE ON A BASIS WHICH TAKES INTO SOME ACCOUNT SUDANESE POTENTIAL AND POLITICAL RREALITIES AS WELL AS ESTABLISHED CRITERIA OF MONETARY PRACTICE.

4. FINALLY, WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO EXAGGERATE THE VALUE OF WORDS AND SYMBOLS OVER DEEDS, THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR MORE FREQUENT PUBLIC INDICATION THAT THE USG SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES OF THE SUDANGOV AND THAT WE ENVISAGE A MODERNIZING AND PROSPEROUS SUDAN MAKING A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO STABILITY IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. HIGH-LEVEL VISITS, OCCASIONAL SPEECHES BY US LEADERS AND THE RESULTING INCREASED ATTENTION GIVEN BY US MEDIA COULD PLAY A PART IN THIS PROCESS. BERGUS

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